

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3799

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 25881

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON TERRORISM

REF: PARIS 23425

1. LEWIS HOFACKER, S/CCT, HAD USEFUL TALKS OCTOBER 25 WITH FOLLOWING FRENCH OFFICIALS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF TERRORISM: MICHEL AURILLAC, DIRECTOR OF CABINET OF INTERIOR MINISTER; AND MAURICE GRIMAUD, SECRETARY GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION. DURING CALL ON AURILLAC CHARGE D'AFFAIRES TONE, POLITICAL COUNSELOR COHEN AND HOFFACKER HAD FEW MINUTES WITH INTERIOR MINISTER PONIA-TOWSKI, WHO REPEATED HIS EARLIER DECLARATION THAT "NEXT TIME" IT MUST BE ARRANGED THAT TERRORISTS LOSE THEIR LIVES SO THAT PROPER EXAMPLE IS SET. THIS APPARENTLY WAS PONIATOWSKI'S HOPE IN THE HAGUE INCIDENT BUT DUTCH AUTHORITIES HAD OTHER IDEAS OR OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCH ACTION MAY NOT HAVE BEEN FEASIBLE.

2. HOFFACKER SUGGESTED TO AURILLAC AT SECOND MEETING THAT ALREADY GOOD BILATERAL INTELLIGENCE LIAISON ON CONFIDENTIAL

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TERRORISM MIGHT BE EXPANDED AND WAS TOLD THAT "MAXIMUM"

INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGE WAS ALREADY UNDER WAY IN ESTABLISHED CHANNELS. AURILLAC VOLUNTERED THAT GOF WOULD BE GLAD TO RECEIVE MORE INTELLIGENCE FROM USG ON AREAS OF SPECIAL FRENCH INTEREST LIKE MIDDLE EAST. COHEN AND HOFFACKER DID NOT RPT NOT RESPOND WITH ANY ENCOURAGEMENT.

3. AURILLAC WAS UNYIELDING ON POSSIBLE INNOVATIONS IN NATO CONTEXT ON RED ARMY OR OTHER TERRORIST CONSIDERATIONS. GOF IS OBVIOUSLY UPSET OVER WHAT THEY REGARD AS GON INDISCRETION IN PERMITTING PUBLICATION OF SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE ON RED ARMY TERRORISTS. (HOFFACKER HAD HEARD SAME CONCERN EXPRESSED BY FRENCH AMBASSADOR SENARD IN THE HAGUE.) AURILLAC IS UNLIKELY TO RECOMMEND CHANGE IN GOF BOYCOTT OF NATO CONSIDERATION OF STUDY OF RED ARMY. ASIDE FROM SENSITIVITY ON MULTILATERAL SHARING OF INTELLIGENCE, AURILLAC SPOKE OF GOF UNWILLINGNESS TO EXPAND ANY NATO COMPETENCE OR INSTITUTION.

4. HOFFACKER LEFT WITH AURILLAC RESUME OF RECENT RESCUE OPERATION IN SANTO DOMINGO AND DISCUSSED SIMILARITIES AND DISSIMILARITIES IN HAGUE AND SANTO DOMINGO INCIDENTS. AURILLAC VOICED INTEREST IN USG-GOF EXCHANGE ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF TERRORISM, PARTICULARLY "TRICKS OR GIMMICKS" LIKE GAS OR WEAPONS WHICH COULD BE USED TO OVERCOME TERRORISTS. HOFFACKER REPLIED THAT USG DID NOT HAVE SUCH GAS AS AURILLAC SEEMED TO HAVE IN MIND BUT SUGGESTED THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SHARE EXPERIENCES IN SUCH AREAS AS TASK FORCE MANAGEMENT, PROTECTION OF EMBASSIES, ETC. COHEN OFFERED TO PUT AURILLAC IN TOUCH WITH PROPER CHANNELS SHOULD SPECIFIC GOF INTEREST BE EXPRESSED.

4. SEE SEPTTEL ON CONVERSATION WITH GRIMAUD.

5. COMMENT: WHILE GOF IS UNLIKELY TO SHARE WITH USG ANY MORE TERRORIST-RELATED INTELLIGENCE THAN IN THE PAST, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT DIALOGUE MIGHT BE DEVELOPED ON TECHNICAL-MANAGEMENT SIDE. IN ANY EVENT, HOFFACKER
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VISIT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN POTENTIALLY HELPFUL AND, AS MINIMUM, ACQUAINTED GOF MORE FULLY WITH USG RESPONSE TO CHALLENGE OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.
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